

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0390

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MPOS, CU, GY, AO, VE

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 004124

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I DISCUSSED THE ANGOLAN SITUATION BRIEFLY AT OUR MEETING ON JANUARY 9. ESCOVAR SALOM SAID HE MADE CLEAR TO THE MPLA DELEGATION DURING ITS RECENT VISIT HERE THAT THE GOV OPPOSES ANY AND ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE ANGOLAN SITUATION. HE FOUND THE DELEGATION CONFIDENT OF MAJORITY AFRICAN SUPPORT AT THE OAU MEETING.

2. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR GOV COOPERATION IN THE GUYANA ASPECT, NOTING THAT IT SEEMED IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED INCLUDING THE GUYANESE THAT THE CUBANS NOT USE GUYANA AS A TRANSIT POINT FOR THEIR MILITARY ADVENTURE IN AFRICA. ESCOVAR STATED FLATLY THAT THE USE OF GUYANA FOR SUCH A PURPOSE WAS "UNACCEPTABLE" TO THE GOV. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION I SAID WE HAD NO INFORMATION THAT THE CUBANS HAD SHIFTED THEIR TRANSIT OPERATIONS TO JAMAICA.

3. ESCOVAR WENT ON TO RUMINATE ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN MOTIVES. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE SOVIETS WITH THEIR INTEREST IN DETENTE AND INTERNATIONAL "STABILITY" SHOULD INVOLVE THEMSELVES SO HEAVILY IN THIS SITUATION. (THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD SPOKEN AT LENGTH TO GROMYKO DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT LAST MONTH ABOUT THE NEED FOR STABILITY IN THESE TIMES--AND PARTICULARLY FROM VENE-
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ZUELA'S POINT OF VIEW STABILITY IN THE CARIBBEAN.) HE WAS BAFFLED

TOO BY THE CUBAN ROLE, ASKING WHY THEY SHOULD RISK SO MUCH AND
RAISE SO MANY DOUBTS JUST AT A TIME WHEN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES ARE "OPENING THEIR DOORS."

4. WE TOUCHED ON THE GREAT-POWER AND IDEOLOGICAL INTERESTS
OF THE SOVIET UNION IN AFRICA AND I REMINDED THE FOREIGN MINISTER
OF CUBA'S REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES THERE GOING BACK TO THE
GUEVARA. HE ASKED THAT I GIVE HIM ANY INSIGHTS WE MIGHT ACQUIRE
ON WHAT THE CUBANS ARE UP TO AND WHAT THEIR INTERVENTION IN
ANGOLA PORTENDS FOR CUBAN POLICY ELSEWHERE. I SAID I WOULD.
SHLAUDEMAM

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